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What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of identifying a server from a client terminal having a
2 browser and a processor, said server and said client terminal being
3 connectable with each other via a communications network, comprising the
4 steps of:
5 a) transmitting a first request packet from said browser to said
6 server;
7 b) receiving the first request packet at said server and transmitting
8 therefrom server specific information to said browser, indicating a server in
9 which shared data file is maintained;
10 c) receiving said server specific information at said browser and
11 invoking said processor to hand over the received information to the
12 processor;
13 d) transmitting a second request packet from the processor to a
14 server specified by the received server specific information; and
15 e) receiving the second request packet at the specified server and
16 transmitting therefrom said shared data file to said processor.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the client terminal includes a
2 memory device and the step (e) comprises storing the transmitted shared
3 data file in said memory device, further comprising the step of transmitting a
4 third request packet from said processor to the specified server and
5 transmitting therefrom differential data representing a difference between the
6 shared data file maintained by the server and the shared data file stored in
7 said memory device.

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1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the client terminal includes a
2 memory device and the step (e) comprises storing the transmitted shared
3 data file in said memory device, further comprising the step of transmitting a

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4 third request packet from said processor to the specified server and
5 transmitting therefrom differential data representing a difference between the
6 shared data file maintained by the server and the shared data file stored in
7 said memory device.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein said network includes a cache
2 memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier
3 identifying said shared data file, said identifier being determined for each
4 access from said processor to said server so that the shared data file identified
5 by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

1 7. A client-server system comprising:
2 a communications network;
3 a server connected to the network; and
4 a client terminal connected to the network, the client terminal having a
5 processor and a browser, the browser transmitting a first request packet to
6 said server;
7 said server being responsive to said first request packet for
8 transmitting a server specific information to said browser for indicating a
9 server in which shared data file is maintained,
10 said browser being responsive to said server specific information for
11 invoking said processor to hand over the received information thereto,
12 said processor being responsive to the received information for
13 transmitting a second request packet to a server specified by the received
14 information, and
15 the specified server being responsive to the second request packet for

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16 transmitting said shared data file to said processor.

1 8. The client-server system of claim 7, wherein the client terminal
2 includes a memory device and the processor is configured to store the shared
3 data file from said specified server in said memory device and transmit a
4 third request packet to the specified server, and wherein the specified server
5 is configured to transmit differential data representing a difference between
6 the shared data file maintained by the server and the shared data file stored
7 in said memory device.

1 9. The client-server system of claim 7, wherein said network
2 includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains
3 an identifier identifying said shared data file, wherein said processor is
4 configured to determine said identifier for each access from the processor to
5 said server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not
6 coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

1 10. The client-server system of claim 7, wherein said server is
2 configured to receive server specific information from another server of the
3 network and transmits the received server specific information to said
4 browser.

1 11. A client-server system comprising:
2 a communications network;
3 a server connected to the network; and
4 a client terminal connected to the network, the client terminal having a

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5 processor and a browser, the browser transmitting a first request packet to
6 said server;
7 said server being responsive to said first request packet for
8 transmitting a server specific information to said browser for indicating a
9 server in which shared data file is maintained,
10 said browser receiving said server specific information and storing the
11 received information and invoking said processor,
12 said processor reading the stored information and transmitting a
13 second request packet to a server specified by the stored information, and
14 the specified server being responsive to the second request packet for
15 transmitting said shared data file to said processor.

1 12. The client-server system of claim 11, wherein the client terminal
2 includes a memory device and the processor is configured to store the shared
3 data file from said specified server in said memory device and transmit a
4 third request packet to the specified server, and wherein the specified server
5 is configured to transmit differential data representing a difference between
6 the shared data file maintained by the server and the shared data file stored
7 in said memory device.

1 13. The client-server system of claim 11, wherein said network
2 includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains
3 an identifier identifying said shared data file, wherein said processor is
4 configured to determine said identifier for each access from the processor to
5 said server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not
6 coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

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- 1 14. The client-server system of claim 11, wherein said server is
- 2 configured to receive server specific information from another server of the
- 3 network and transmits the received server specific information to said
- 4 browser.

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